UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/508,870	10/04/2000	Yuraki Furuhata	16869P-00610	4059

7590   08/12/2004

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EXAMINER
GILLIGAN, CHRISTOPHER L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3626	

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>06 May 2004</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-5 and 8-10</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-5 and 8-10</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)		4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)		Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)		5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08092004</u>.		6)☐ Other: _____ .

Response to Amendment

In the amendment filed 5/6/04, the following has occurred: claims 1 and 4 have been

amended and claims 8-10 have been added. Now, claims 1-5 and 8-10 are presented for

examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garback, U.S.

Patent No. 5,237,499 in view of Taylor et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,899,981 and further in view of

Scully et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,261,045.

4.   As per claim 1, Garback teaches a schedule management system comprising a plurality

of terminal devices interconnected over a line for performing travel expense adjustment

processing, wherein at least one of said plurality of terminals serves as a management terminal

device which manages schedules of users managed in said system on an external storage

apparatus (see Figure 1 and column 2, lines 19-22); each of said plurality of terminal devices

other than said management terminal device serves as a schedule inputting terminal having an

inputting device for inputting schedule information (see column 4, lines 63-67); said schedule

management system comprising: an external storage apparatus for storing schedule information

inputted from said inputting device of said schedule inputting terminal (see column 4, lines 63-

67 and column 3, lines 10-15) and travel expense adjustment information representative of

whether or not travel expense adjustment has been performed (see column 5, lines 40-60 and

column 6, line 61 – column 7, line 8); and a computer readable medium including code for

comparing said travel expense adjustment information and said business trip schedule

information with each other to search for unadjusted travel expense information (see column 5,

lines 40-60).

5.   Garback does not explicitly teach that the travel expense adjustment information is travel

expense reimbursement information. Garback also does not explicitly teach code for extracting

business trip schedule information based on status and classification data and code for

determining whether or not a user of one of the terminals has indicated that the user wishes to

reimburse the travel expense information that has not been reimbursed. Taylor teaches a

schedule management system for processing travel expense reimbursement information (see

column 1, line 66 – column 2, line 2) that includes code for extracting business trip schedule

information based on status and classification data (see column 15, line 66 – column 16, line 5),

and code for determining whether or not a user of one of the terminals has indicated that the

user wishes to reimburse the travel expense information that has not been reimbursed (see

column 17, lines 26-33 and column 20, lines 10-20). It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art of travel expense management at the time of the invention to incorporate

these travel reimbursement features into the system of Garback. One of ordinary skill in the art

would have been motivated to incorporate these features for the purpose of expediting expense

reporting incurred by employees using the system of Garback (see column 1, lines 57-63 of

Taylor).

6.   Additionally, Garback does not explicitly teach that schedule information includes

business trip schedule information and non-business trip schedule information and that it is

based on status and classification data. Scully teaches displaying business trip schedules and

non displaying non-business trip schedules based upon input status and classification data (see

7, lines 1-8, note that the view criteria can includes business related events such as meetings and appointments and non-business events such as vacation). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of business schedule management to incorporate this feature into the system of Garback. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to incorporate this feature for the purpose of enhancing user preferences in the system of Garback by enabling the viewing of specific subsets of scheduled events (see column 3, lines 10-15 of Scully).

7.   As per claim 2, Garback in view of Taylor and Scully teach the system of claim 1 as described above. Garback further teaches the travel expense adjustment information includes first information identifying a person for whom the schedule information has been prepared (see column 4, lines 58-62) and second information indicating the date of a business trip, said schedule information including third information identifying a person for whom the schedule information has been prepared and fourth information indicating the date of a business trip (see column 3, lines 10-30, column 4, lines 11-18, column 5, lines 40-46, and column 6, lines 18-19). As noted above, while Garback does not explicitly teach that travel expense adjustment information includes reimbursement information, this feature is obvious in view of Taylor for the same reasons as given above.

8.   As per claim 4, Garback teaches a user terminal provided in a schedule management system, the user terminal being one of a plurality of user terminals connected to a LAN, the plurality of user terminals being operable to manage schedules of a plurality of users, said user terminals comprising: an inputting means for inputting business trip schedule information (see column 3, lines 10-15); a schedule information editing means for editing business trip schedule information obtained from said inputting means to information in a form for management on an external storage apparatus, a schedule information storage means for storing the edited

schedule information onto said external storage apparatus (see column 3, lines 25-30); a non

adjusted travel expense information search means for collating the travel expense adjustment

information stored on said external storage apparatus and the business trip schedule

information stored on said external storage apparatus with each other to search for non

adjusted travel expenses (see column 5, lines 40-60); a schedule and message display/reply

means for displaying the business trip schedule information and the unadjusted information on a

screen of the terminal (see column 5, lines 1-3 and lines 34-40); display means for displaying a

query to a user as to whether or not the non-adjusted information is to be adjusted (see column

5, lines 1-3 and column 6, lines 7-8); a travel expense adjustment information inputting means

for inputting travel expense adjustment information when non-adjusted travel expenses are

detected, a travel expense adjustment editing means for editing the travel expense adjustment

information obtained from said reimbursement information inputting means to information in a

record form or a file for transmission (see column 5, lines 40-60 and column 6, line 61 – column

7, line 8).

9.   Garback does not explicitly teach that the travel expense adjustment information is travel

expense reimbursement information. Garback also does not explicitly teach searching means

for searching for business trip schedule information based on status and classification data and

determining whether or not a user of one of the terminals has indicated that the user wishes to

reimburse the travel expense information that has not been reimbursed. Taylor teaches a

schedule management system for processing travel expense reimbursement information (see

column 1, line 66 – column 2, line 2) that includes searching means for searching for business

trip schedule information based on status and classification data (see column 15, line 66 –

column 16, line 5), determining whether or not a user of one of the terminals has indicated that

the user wishes to reimburse the travel expense information that has not been reimbursed (see

column 17, lines 26-33 and column 20, lines 10-20). It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art of travel expense management at the time of the invention to incorporate

these travel reimbursement features into the system of Garback. One of ordinary skill in the art

would have been motivated to incorporate these features for the purpose of expediting expense

reporting incurred by employees using the system of Garback (see column 1, lines 57-63 of

Taylor).

10.   Additionally, Garback does not explicitly teach that schedule information includes

business trip schedule information and non-business trip schedule information and that it is

based on status and classification data. Scully teaches displaying business trip schedules and

non displaying non-business trip schedules based upon input status and classification data (see

7, lines 1-8, note that the view criteria can includes business related events such as meetings

and appointments and non-business events such as vacation). It would have been obvious to

one of ordinary skill in the art of business schedule management to incorporate this feature into

the system of Garback. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to

incorporate this feature for the purpose of enhancing user preferences in the system of Garback

by enabling the viewing of specific subsets of scheduled events (see column 3, lines 10-15 of

Scully).

11.   As per claim 5, Garback in view of Taylor and Scully teach the system of claim 4 as

described above. Garback further teaches searching for the travel expense adjustment

information stored on said external storage means based on information identifying a person or

information identifying a trip destination (see column 4, lines 15-20, column 4, lines 58-62,

column 5, lines 40-60, and column 6, liens 20-27), and inputting travel expense adjustment

information based on the travel expense adjustment information in the past (see column 10,

lines 26-29 and column 2, lines 30-55). As noted above, while Garback does not explicitly teach

that travel expense adjustment information includes reimbursement information, this feature is

obvious in view of Taylor for the same reasons as given above.

12.   As per claim 8, Garback teaches a schedule management system comprising a plurality

of terminal devices interconnected over a communication link for performing travel expense

reimbursement processing, wherein at least one of said plurality of terminals serves as a

management terminal device which manages schedules of users managed in said system on an

external storage apparatus (see Figure 1 and column 2, lines 19-22); each of said plurality of

terminal devices other than said management terminal device serves as a schedule inputting

terminal having an inputting device for inputting schedule information (see column 4, lines 63-

67); said schedule management system comprising: an external storage apparatus for storing a

plurality of schedule information entries inputted from said inputting device of said schedule

inputting terminal (see column 4, lines 63-67 and column 3, lines 10-15) and travel expense

adjustment information representative of whether or not travel expense adjustment has been

performed (see column 5, lines 40-60 and column 6, line 61 – column 7, line 8).

13.   Garback does not explicitly teach that the travel expense adjustment information is travel

expense reimbursement information. Garback also does not explicitly teach code for extracting

business trip schedule information based on classification data. Taylor teaches a schedule

management system for processing travel expense reimbursement information (see column 1,

line 66 – column 2, line 2) that includes code for extracting business trip schedule information

based on classification data (see column 15, line 66 – column 16, line 5). It would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of travel expense management at the time of the

invention to incorporate these travel reimbursement features into the system of Garback. One

of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to incorporate these features for the

purpose of expediting expense reporting incurred by employees using the system of Garback
(see column 1, lines 57-63 of Taylor).

14.   Additionally, Garback does not explicitly teach that classification data indicates whether
or not a given entry of said schedule information relates to a business trip. Scully teaches
displaying business trip schedules and non displaying non-business trip schedules based upon
input classification data (see 7, lines 1-8, note that the view criteria can includes business
related events such as meetings and appointments and non-business events such as vacation).
It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of business schedule management
to incorporate this feature into the system of Garback. One of ordinary skill in the art would
have been motivated to incorporate this feature for the purpose of enhancing user preferences
in the system of Garback by enabling the viewing of specific subsets of scheduled events (see
column 3, lines 10-15 of Scully).

15.   As per claim 9, Garback in view of Taylor and Scully teach the system of claim 8 as
described above. Garback does not explicitly teach code for identifying extracted entries of first
type for which travel expense have not been reimbursed and whether or not a user of one of the
terminals has indicated that the user wishes to reimburse the travel expense for said entries.
Taylor further teaches determining whether or not a user of one of the terminals has indicated
that the user wishes to reimburse the travel expense information that has not been reimbursed
(see column 17, lines 26-33 and column 20, lines 10-20). It would have been obvious to one of
ordinary skill in the art of travel expense management at the time of the invention to incorporate
these travel reimbursement features into the system of Garback for the reasons given above
with respect to claim 8.

16.   As per claim 10, Garback in view of Taylor and Scully teach the system of claim 8 as
described above. Garback does not explicitly teach status data indicative of whether or not a

given schedule information entry has been approved. Taylor teaches including status data

indicative of whether or not a given schedule information entry has been approved (see column

2, lines 49-59). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of travel expense

management at the time of the invention to incorporate these travel reimbursement features into

the system of Garback for the reasons given above with respect to claim 8.

17.   Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garback, U.S.

Patent No. 5,237,499 in view of Taylor et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,899,981 and Scully et al., U.S.

Patent No. 5,261,045 and further in view of Whitesage, U.S. Patent No. 5,191,523.

18.   As per claim 3, Garback in view of Taylor and Scully teach the system of claim 2 as

described above. Garback further teaches the non-adjusted travel expense adjustment search

means searches for a person identification information in the travel expense adjustment

information that coincides with the person identification information in the schedule information

(see column 5, lines 40-60); and further searches for the schedule information based on the

time and date of the travel request (see column 5, lines 40-60 and column 6, lines 28-30).

Garback does not explicitly teach searching for a scheduled outwork date that has passed.

Whitesage teaches the searching and retrieval of date based on a date that has passed (see

column 7, lines 20-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of travel

expense management at the time of the invention to add this searching feature to the system of

Garback. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to incorporate this feature

for the purpose of providing later analysis such as producing accurate cost information for

comparison purposes (see column 1, lines 11-12 and column 7, lines 35-36 of Whitesage).

Additionally, and as noted above, while Garback does not explicitly teach that travel expense

adjustment information includes reimbursement information, this feature is obvious in view of

Taylor for the same reasons as given above.

Response to Arguments

19.   In the remarks filed 5/6/04, Applicants argue in substance that (1) Garback does not

teach schedule information that has status and classification data; (2) Garback does not teach

reimbursement information that indicates whether or not travel expense has been reimbursed;

(3) Taylor does not teach utilizing status and classification information to determine whether or

not a given entry relates to a business trip.

20.   In response to Applicants' arguments (1) and (2), it is respectfully submitted that the

Examiner has not relied upon the teachings of Garback for these particular features. Instead,

the Examiner has relied upon the teachings of Taylor in the previous and current rejections for

these features (see for example paragraph 5 above). Therefore, these arguments are not found

to be persuasive in view of the applied grounds of rejection.

21.   In response to Applicants' argument (3), to the extent that this feature is now recited in

the claims as amended, the Examiner has applied a new grounds of rejection in view of Scully.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this argument is now moot in view of these new

grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

22.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this

Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant

is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

23.   A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this
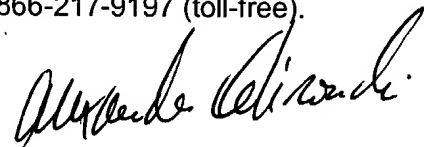
final action.

24.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to Luke Gilligan whose telephone number is (703) 308-6104. The examiner

can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am-5:30pm.

25.   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on (703) 305-9588. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

26.   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private

PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CLG
8/9/04

ALEXANDER KALINOWSKI
PRIMARY EXAMINER